

CORE FINANCING

YEAR	Experts		Group Activity	Equipment	Fellowships		Scientific Visits		Group Training	Sub-Contracts	Misc. Comp.	TOTAL
	m/d	US \$	US \$	US \$	m/d	US \$	m/d	US \$	US \$	US \$	US \$	US \$
1997	5/0	66,000	0	0	0/0	0	0/0	0	0	0	307,200	373,200
1998	1/0	13,950	0	0	0/0	0	0/0	0	318,990	0	16,140	349,080

First Year Approved: 1997

OBJECTIVES: To standardize and harmonize the protocol for radiation sterilization of tissue grafts and to evaluate the clinical benefits of their application.

BACKGROUND: Health care services to patients suffering tissue damage and/or tissue loss rely on the availability of safe tissue allografts for reconstruction and repair. Considerable support in this field has been given to countries in the region via national TC projects and through the RCA project RAS/7/003. Although the Agency has assisted in the development of 16 tissue banks in developing Member States in the region, not all have developed at the same rate or to the same level, and there is still a strong dependence on external expertise. Good Management Practices/Quality Assurance (QA) Systems have not been uniformly introduced, and a system of

audit and validation of the processes has not been put in place. Among the grafts processed under RAS/7/003, emphasis was placed on production of radiation sterilized amnion, which is at present widely used in the region as wound dressing. Clinical study to evaluate the benefits and to clarify the indications for use of radiation sterilized amnion is urgently needed. With Agency assistance, a curriculum on radiation sterilization of tissue grafts has been developed. The establishment of a Regional Training Centre (RTC) at the National University of Singapore has been proposed in order to facilitate validation and dissemination of the curriculum and to implement training and certification of tissue bank operators. The National Co-ordinators Meeting in September - October 1996 recommended the following: (1) Implementation of total QA systems in producing radiation sterilized tissue grafts; (2) Evaluation of clinical benefits of radiation sterilized amnion membrane as wound dressing; (3) Establishment of an RTC to validate and disseminate the curriculum in radiation sterilization of tissue grafts and to implement training and certification of tissue bank operators in the region; (4) Promotion of public awareness and acceptance of radiation sterilization of tissue grafts. Countries expected to participate are Australia, Bangladesh, China, India, Indonesia, Japan, Republic of Korea, Malaysia, Myanmar, Pakistan, Philippines, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Viet Nam.

PROJECT PLAN: Training courses and regional and national workshops will be organized at the proposed RTC at the National University of Singapore. National Project Co-ordinators Meetings will review and evaluate implementation and effectiveness of the project. The Agency will monitor the project's activities continuously. The RTC will reproduce the training curriculum and will set up mechanism for training, examination and certification of tissue bank operators. A study on clinical benefits of amnion as wound dressing will be implemented and the data collected and analysed at the RTC.

NATIONAL COMMITMENT: All participating countries will be requested to nominate national Project Co-ordinators and to designate "trainers" to deliver the training curriculum. Each country should establish an effective mechanism for the development and dissemination of promotional and educational material to promote awareness among professional bodies and the public of the needs and potential of tissue donation and utilization and to inform legislative bodies of their requirements. The Government of Singapore will contribute in kind to the project through the provision of facilities and staff. The National University of Singapore will reproduce the multi-media training curriculum and will co-ordinate examinations, host meetings, workshops and National Co-ordinators Meetings and will provide contributions in kind in the form of cost-free experts, lecturers, facilities and premises. A data processing centre will be set up to facilitate the implementation of the clinical study on amnion applications.

AGENCY INPUT: Limited technical backstopping and secretariat support will be provided. Prior to implementation, the miscellaneous component will be redistributed in order to reflect the following distribution: Experts \$66,000; Group Activities \$80,000; Scientific Visits \$72,000; Group Training \$80,000; Subcontracts \$60,000; Miscellaneous \$15,200. This redistribution is based upon the outcome of the project development meeting held in Brisbane, Australia, from 27 September to 4 October 1996 which could not be incorporated in the component totals for this document.

PROJECT IMPACT: It is expected that all participating countries will introduce and practice QA systems in radiation sterilization of tissue grafts and tissue banking in general. The use of distance learning will allow an extended cadre of health care workers to upgrade their skills. The general population, who are potential donors and recipients of the tissues, will benefit from a technology that reduces pain, increases recovery rate and reduces the incidence of secondary infection and time spent in hospital.